

James B. McMillan's life truly was a reflection of a valiant, idealistic, and nonviolent struggle for equality. His lifeworks have opened doors for many blacks in the United States and will continue to be an inspiration for all who are engaged in the race for equality.

This U.S. Senator is a better person because of the efforts of Dr. McMillan. Nevada is a better state because of Dr. McMillan's refusal to accept the status quo and his lifelong dedication in the struggle for equality.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, April 23, 1999, the federal debt stood at \$5,586,140,738,923.35 (Five trillion, five hundred eighty-six billion, one hundred forty million, seven hundred thirty-eight thousand, nine hundred twenty-three dollars and thirty-five cents).

One year ago, April 23, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,501,159,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred one billion, one hundred fifty-nine million).

Fifteen years ago, April 23, 1984, the federal debt stood at \$1,486,568,000,000 (One trillion, four hundred eighty-six billion, five hundred sixty-eight million).

Twenty-five years ago, April 23, 1974, the federal debt stood at \$471,225,000,000 (Four hundred seventy-one billion, two hundred twenty-five million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,114,915,738,923.35 (Five trillion, one hundred fourteen billion, nine hundred fifteen million, seven hundred thirty-eight thousand, nine hundred twenty-three dollars and thirty-five cents) during the past 25 years.

THE INNOCENT VICTIMS AT COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, last Wednesday, I came to the floor of the Senate to thank my colleagues who offered their sympathies for the victims and their families involved in the tragic shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. I also wanted the people in Colorado to know that our hearts in the United States Senate were with all of the families through this terrible and tragic time.

Since then, the victims have been identified. Today, it is with deep sadness that I include for the RECORD the names of the innocent victims at Columbine High School. I believe it is a fitting tribute for the United States Senate to recognize these 12 students and one teacher who lost their lives in such an unthinkable way.

Cassie Bernall, Steven Curnow, Corey De Pooter, Kelly Fleming, Matthew Kechter, Daniel Mauser, Daniel Rohrbough, William "Dave" Sanders, Rachel Scott, Isaiah Shoels, John Tomlin, Lauren Townsend, Kyle Velasquez.

PARENTS ABDICATE; FAITH IS ABANDONED

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I had tried numerous times without success during the weekend to reach by telephone a remarkable young mother whom I had never met. I learned about her while reading a newspaper back home in North Carolina that published on April 23 what is most often referred to these days as an "op-ed" piece headed, "Parents Abdicate; Faith Is Abandoned".

(An op-ed piece, of course, is the short-form identification of an article published on the page opposite a newspaper's editorial page.)

The op-ed piece which so impressed me was authored by Mrs. Ashley Ethridge of Mebane, N.C., a former school teacher who decided to spend her time raising her two little girls. (She and her husband are expecting a third child later this year).

I mentioned at the outset my having tried for much of the weekend to reach Mrs. Ethridge by telephone. Sunday afternoon those efforts were successful—and I must say, Mr. President, that my conversation with Mrs. Ethridge could not have been more meaningful.

Senators who read her "op-ed" piece will agree, I think, that this lady is a gifted writer. She is a graduate of N.C. State University and she has completed graduate work. She is excitingly profound in her analysis of what ails America in our time.

I must confess that I myself have long been alarmed by America's drift away from the moral and spiritual principles and priorities upon which our nation was founded more than two centuries ago. Many of my generation often lament the trend. But Mrs. Ethridge has diagnosed the moral malady better than I, and she offers the prescription to turn the nation's direction around more precisely, more specifically than I ever have.

Mr. President, I don't often do this but in the case of my remarks today, and Mrs. Ethridge's clarity and counsel, I shall urge my fellow Senators to read what this young mother in Mebane, North Carolina, feels that all of us ought to consider.

So I am glad that I tried, one more time, Sunday afternoon to reach Mrs. Ethridge. It was a blessing to hear her voice and to sense her understanding of the course America simply must take—now.

So, Mr. President, I say to Ashley Ethridge: God bless you for the clarity of your wake-up call to the most fortunate people on earth—we citizens of the United States of America. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of Ashley Ethridge's observations be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PARENTS ABDICATE; FAITH IS ABANDONED (By Ashley Ethridge)

Is it just me, or has the entire country gone completely mad?

In recent editions of the newspaper I have learned that it is good fun when sexually explicit and violent Marilyn Manson shock-rock concerts attract swarms of young adolescent boys—presumably sans parents—cheering Satan; that magazines for teenage girls are emblazoned with headlines such as "How To Totally Turn Him On"; and that parents are paying \$800 a month to put infants in institutionalized day care while the mummies and daddies keep tabs on baby's milestones via surveillance camera. People frown upon giving a 3-year-old a doughnut, but don't even flinch at giving birth control pills to a young teen suspected of having sex.

Nickelodeon (remember, the network just for kids—no adults allowed?) is now changing the entire slant of its programming because its executives have discovered that children now, more than anything else, wish for time with their parents.

In the wake of the Littleton, Colo., massacre, Wake County's school superintendent, Jim Surratt, asked what kind of sick society would produce people who would want to do that kind of thing. I find the answers to Surratt's question in my newspaper almost every morning.

In his response to the tragedy, President Clinton said that perhaps now America will wake up to the dimensions of the challenge of juvenile violence. I can only assume that he is implying a need for more programs, courtesy of the government and thus the taxpayers. More counseling, more day care, more before-school care, more after-school care, more gun control and of course more counselors and mediators in the schools.

I too hope America will wake up—wake up to the fact that children need more parental love and guidance.

The parents who blame the media and other outside influences for teen violence should be diligent in shielding their children from the offending sources. Where are these parents when their under-17-year-olds are filling the theaters of the many R-rated teen flicks now playing? Where are these parents when their children are wading through the murky waters of the Internet? Where are these parents when their children are buying music bearing Parental Advisory warning labels? Where are these parents when their children are watching questionable—at best—prime time television shows?

How can parents remove themselves almost completely from their children's lives and then blame "Dawson's Creek" when their daughters become pregnant or Leo DiCaprio when their sons become violent?

Clinton also says that the nation must search for answers. This is absurd, and yet is also precisely the problem. The answer is obvious for anyone who will see it. Unfortunately, we are so ensconced in our spiritually empty, materialistic, self-centered lives that we do not seem to care that we are sacrificing our children. We applaud Clinton's initiative to fund more studies so that experts can search for answers because it lifts the burden from our pathetic shoulders.

Why is it that so few people seem to believe that parents have a responsibility to raise their own children, to spend time with them, to help them, teach them and nurture them toward a happy, productive adulthood? Parenting has now simply become a process of buying children anything they want, including guardians and homework-helpers, for as long as they want—often well into what should be adulthood.

Stop searching the psychology journals and parenting magazines and federally funded studies for answers. Search your hearts and make your children, your families, your first priority.

Clinton says that more must be done to help children deal with anger. This sounds like hiring more school counselors. Why not look to the cause of so much anger among our young people? Could it possibly have something to do with the fact that they know that their parents really don't want to be bothered with the task of raising them?

Frankly, I don't think the schools are equipped to handle situations such as these, lamentable as they are, nor do I think they ought to. And I think some parents are just looking at school as a place to stick their kids to get them out of their hair.

Over 400 years ago, Martin Luther warned that if God were removed from education, schools would prove to be the gates of hell. What happens when we remove God from our families and homes, forsaking our children as well? What happens when we remove Him from society as a whole, and worship instead the Almighty Dollar?

Is it hot in here, or is it just me?

Mr. HELMS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

Y2K ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 96, which the clerk will report.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of S. 96, a bill to regulate commerce between and among the several States by providing for the orderly resolution of disputes arising out of computer-based problems related to processing data that includes a 2-digit expression of the year's date.

The Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Madam President, I yield myself so much time as may be permitted under the unanimous-consent agreement.

Pending the discussion with respect to the Y2K problem, let me say at the outset that if there were a Y2K problem, we on this side of the opposition, let's say, to the particular bill and the amendment forthcoming with respect to Senator McCain and Senator Wyden, anything within reason obviously could have been worked out;

namely, anyone who has a computer knows glitches. So no one can deny there cannot be a glitch on January 1 of the year 2000. However, there is not really a problem that would cause us to try to change tort law. That is what is in the offing here.

I have talked to the best of the best in the computer industry with the idea that we could compromise and give the 90-day grace period.

People do not want to go to court when they find out their computer is not working. If there is one thing that takes time—the Securities and Exchange Commission and so-called tort reform—they are still in discovery, they are still in appeals, and they are still in court, without trying the case, some 2 years later, because they have yet to determine what was intended. The same would be the case here trying to really venture into the State responsibility and jurisdiction with tort with so-called overall reform law.

So I thought, fine, let's get together on what could be called a glitch. Nobody wants to go to court. Give them some time to fix the glitch, and then move on in the business world. However, we have some friends down at the National Chamber of Commerce who are really bent on actually trying to pass product liability and do away with trial by jury and all the other State tort systems.

I could spot this in my particular position because I have been engaged in it for at least 20 years on the Commerce Committee from which it has been reported each time. We have prevailed over the 20 years. The reason we have prevailed is that the professionals in this particular field, whether it be the American Bar Association, the Association of State Legislatures, the Association of State Supreme Court Judges, the Association of Governors, until it was changed in effect, all opposed, and we were able to withstand the onslaught of this particular political move.

I can tell you, Madam President, we are going to withstand it again on Y2K, unless they come around, of course. But I don't see a compromise in the offing.

So I think immediately of what should be discussed; namely, television violence. We started on that with hearings at the beginning of the 1990s. This is 1999. And this Senator introduced a TV violence bill. We reported it out at that time 19 to 1 from the Congress before the last.

I remember going up to Senator Dole, then majority leader, who was running for President, and saying, "Look, we have got this bill out. The Attorney General has already attested to the fact that it would withstand constitutional muster on the freedom of speech provisions, and I will step aside if you want to make it. I am just interested in getting the bill, not the credit. So why don't you take the bill?"

The point is that the distinguished Senator had just come in from the west coast, where he, if everyone will remember, had cussed out the movie industry for its gratuitous violence in all of its film making. So I thought it was a natural that he would want to follow through. He didn't. In the last Congress we then had it reported out by a vote of 20 to 0—TV violence.

This has nothing to do, of course, with the Nintendo games or the other little games they play on these machines. But it does have to do with the basic tendency towards violence without cost, without any harm, or injury, or feeling.

We understand, of course, when you document the civil rights, when you document the matter of the Civil War, or any of these other things, you have to show the violence associated therewith in order to make an honest depiction; that is going to be included. But we are talking about gratuitous, excessive violence not incidental to the plot.

The bill has been found to stand, as I say, constitutional muster.

So we wanted to control that.

I have that bill in again. I would rather think that really bowing to the Chamber of Commerce on particulars there with respect to State tort and State responsibilities—mind you me, my Republican friends in the leadership caterwaul that the best governed—or the less governed—that the best governed is at the local level.

Why not let these local school boards control, rather than mandate from Washington this, that, or the next thing? Now they come with a mandate that the States have not asked for and the States would certainly oppose.

I just talked to one of the great leaders in computerization who said, "Senator, please don't pass this measure. The fact that companies don't get ready, they don't comply, is a competitive edge. My customers are checking them out. If they don't comply, I'm using that as a competitive advantage."

Let the market forces operate I say to those who always caterwaul about market forces and deregulation and wanting to regulate.

Back to the main point. We really ought to whip through a bill on television violence and control that. We have quite a case to present to the Congress itself. In the initial stage of broadcasting, programmers said in the booklets, "Get a murder early on to hold the audience." They love violence, they love murders, so get in a murder scene. I can show you that word for word in the CBS program in the earlier stages of television.

We can also go to the Colorado case. About 4 years ago a solution was used that is working at this particular time. I went down to Columbia, SC, which is Richland County. The county sheriff, Leon Lott, said, "Senator, I want to